To

The Members of The LEISTON cum SIZEWELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

As your Medical Officer of Health, I have the honour to present my report on the general health and Sanitary conditions of the district during the year 1905.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH of the district has been good. Owing to the favorable climatic conditions there has been less sickness than usual, at least I ascribe the result to this cause, although in a wet year we are told that the germs of disease get washed down the sewers by the rain and therefore the wet season is the healthy one: however this may be, we have had little notifiable infectious disease, what cases did occur having no direct influence on one another. Whooping Cough was prevalent in the Summer, as is often the case, and was responsible for three deaths amongst infants. The death rate is lower than during recent years. The birth rate equals the average for the last eight years. Infant Mortality is too high.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES : Eight cases were notified under the Act as against 30 during 1904, six being Diphtheria, one Erysipelas, one Continued Fever. Scarlet Fever, of which there were 12 cases last year, did not occur at all. Three of the six cases of Diphtheria occurred in one house in Cold Fair Green.

There was no one case I think, in which any local insanitary conditions can be said to have been responsible.
One death resulted from Diphtheria.

MORTALITY: The Death Rate is very satisfactory, viz: 9.3 per 1000, as against 10.1 per 1000 for 1904, 10.9 being the average for the last 8 years. This again is an exceptionally low average.
Death Rate for East Suffolk for 1904: 14.23. England & Wales: 16.2.

ALDEBURGH: 10.0 SAXMUNDHAM: 14.19.

The total number of deaths registered was 36, exactly the same as last year. One of these really occurred in the parish of Aldringham and was included by mistake in our returns: the correct number is therefore 35 and on this number I have based the rate.

The following are amongst the causes of death:

Whooping Cough	3	
Diarrhoea	5	
Phthisis	6	(a large proportion.
Infants under 1 year	12.	

INFANT MORTALITY : The only disturbing feature about the number of deaths is the large percentage amongst infants, i.e. children under one year of age. There were 12 under this age, which is more than 1/3 of the whole and 125 per 1000 births registered, the average per 1000 for the last 8 years was 72.3.

The common cause of infant Mortality in large towns is faulty feeding, but that should not apply to us to a great extent, seeing that our Milk Supply is a good one, and but little of it has to travel by train. Two deaths were in prematurely born children, which do not count. Two caused by Whooping Cough, which is particularly fatal in young children. Diarrhoea and enteritis caused three and this is the disease chiefly caused by improper feeding. In sickly children, the off-spring of immature and not very robust parents who have no idea of household management, this complaint is bound to prove disastrous.

I fail to see any remedial cause for so large an infant mortality.

BIRTHS : 96 as against 91 for 1904. 9 of these were illegitimate.

Birth Rate: 25.7 per 1000. 25.8 per 1000 being the average for the last 8 years

So we are keeping up our numbers here, though even then, the rate is low. Birth Rate for East Suffolk 1904: 25.46. England & Wales: 27.9.

MARRIAGES:

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POPULATION : 1901 Census; 3251. Estimated to end of 1904: 3647.

1905: Net gain by births over deaths 61: by new comers over removals, 108: at end of 1905: 3816. A steady gradual increase, denoting a steady and increasing prosperity of the district.

NEW HOUSES: Built & occupied during 1905: 21, an increase of 51 in two years.

DRAINAGE: At the end of 1904 there were 83 connections with the new Sewer, that number has now been increased by 45, taking in 96 houses. I am glad to say that of the Roads, Church, Central, Grimsey, Kitchener & Buller and Upton Place, of which I made mention in my last year's report as requiring sewering, all, with the exception of half Church Road and Grimsey Road have had the Sewer laid. The old drain also has been cut off and all connections made to the new sewer.

The Septic Tank and Irrigation Beds, by which means the sewage is treated, have worked well. Mr. Lincoln Sutton, the Public Analyst has examined the effluent and reported it to be satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY: During a dry season the supply has been adequate. The old wells are gradually being replaced by the Council's Supply and I think the most serious cases have been dealt with. The supply is obtained from the Well on the premises of Messrs Richard Garrett & Sons Ltd, under contract with the Council.

In 1904 there were 147 connections. At the end of 1905 there are 276.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION: The modern houses are built on good lines with sufficient accommodation for average families, ventilation, light and surrounding air space. The demand for good artisan dwellings still continues, in spite of the 51 which have been constructed during the last two years. More are being built at the present time. The problem of the declining birth rate is complicated at the present time by the large families finding a difficultly in obtaining houses with sufficient accommodation for their requirements.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL: System employed: Pail Closets, emptied as often as necessary by contract. The difficultly of providing an adequate supply of dry earth to make the system "a dry earth system" still remains, generally no attempt being made to supply the deficiency. The Schools are a good example of this. Saw dust make a very good substitute, used in sufficient quantity.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE: This is done regularly by contract, most houses using a receptacle which simplifies the operation very considerably.

BYE LAWS & NUISANCES: The general sanitary condition of the District has been greatly improved in the last few years, indeed I hardly think more could have been dome, when we come to consider that the dead wells have been abolished where the sewer has been accessible, the pail has taken the place of the old pit, or midden, than which, ~~em~~ empties perhaps at most twice a year, I can imagine nothing much more horrible, the old fashioned brick receptacles for house refuse replaced by small containers emptied at least once a week, and pig styes relegated to the comparative obscurity of the allotments where they are both useful and desirable, the Council may fairly be congratulated on the results achieved.

BUILDING BYE LAWS: The consideration of these bye laws remains for the future, the chief requirements to be provided for, being, I think, not so much in point of materials, as the adequate ventilation of all sleeping rooms, either by fireplaces or air shafts, and even when given the means, the result is, generally speaking, that they are pasted over with paper and the chimneys filled up with sacks and other rubbish.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES: The four licensed slaughter houses have been kept in good condition and properly lime-washed.

COW SHEDS: Some of the Cow Sheds are kept in much better condition than others. I think it would be advisable for Cowsheds to be licensed in the same way that Slaughter houses are. This is provided for under the Contagious Diseases Act 1886 and the Dairy Cowsheds & Milk Shops Act 1885.

ISOLATION : As before I have to report the absence of provision for the isolation of infectious diseases in the district. Personally I am strongly of opinion that such provision is both desirable and necessary. The difficultly in obtaining a suitable site being, I am convinced, the only stumbling block in the way of the Council, in providing the same.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Council for the uniformly kind way in which all my recommendations have been received.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

FACTORY & WORKSHOPS ACT 1901.

A) FACTORIES: Messrs Richard Garrett & Sons Ltd, Ironworks.

a) SAFETY FROM FIRE: There is a steam Fire Engine on the works manned by the employees and adequate means of escape in the event of fire.

b) HOME WORK: None.

c) CLOSETS: The accommodation is adequate and satisfactory.

B) DOMESTIC FACTORIES: None.

C) WORK SHOPS:

I) DRESSMAKING WORKSHOPS: I found all in a satisfactory condition.

No overcrowding.

NO HOME WORK.

TENEMENT WORKSHOPS: None.

II) BAKE HOUSES: The Bake Houses are kept as required by the Act.

III) LAUNDRIES: None.

IV) DOMESTIC WORKSHOPS: None.

V) STABLE YARDS: The two Stable Yards are in a satisfactory condition, with adequate closet accommodation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Herbert M Sylvester MoH
LoBC

March 4. 1906
Leiston

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